


Plot on Presley's Body Called Possible Hoax; 3 Men Freed



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Charges were dismissed Tuesday against three men accused in an alleged plot to steal Elvis Presley's body for \$10-million ransom when authorities admitted the informant who tipped police to the scheme was "unreliable" and the incident may have been a hoax.

Misdemeanor trespass charges were dismissed against Ronnie Lee Adkins, 26, the informant, and Raymond M. Green, 25, and Bruce Eugene Nelson, 20. They were arrested near Forest Hill Cemetery Aug. 28.

Adkins, 26, had alerted police to an alleged scheme to steal Presley's body from his concrete crypt and copper coffin. He claimed he and the other suspects were promised \$40,000 by an un-

named man, who planned to hold the singer's body for \$10-million ransom.

Prosecutor Robert Donahue told City Court Judge John Dwyer, "We can't stand behind any statements made by him (Adkins). His statements were so unreliable that we cannot vouch for his information."

Police Director E. Winslow Chapman said the entire bodysnatch scheme may have been a hoax. Chapman acknowledged that Adkins had given "reliable" information in other police cases.

Acting on Adkins' information, police set up a stake-out at the cemetery where Presley's body was entombed two days after his death Aug. 16 apparently of heart failure.

Shortly before midnight on

the night of Aug. 28, police said Adkins, Green and Nelson sneaked up to the marble mausoleum where Presley and his mother were entombed and "meddled with" the heavy wrought iron doors leading inside.

Officers gave chase when lights from a passing car apparently frightened the men away, leaving the bodies undisturbed.

The men were charged only with trespassing because no burglary tools, explosives or weapons were found in the cemetery area. A fourth man arrested was released.

"They were not there to steal the body," said Jay Fred Friedman, an attorney for Green and Nelson. "He (Adkins) had lured them out there under some false pretenses."

Program Partial Nod

NO classes and special sessions with in-state faculty members.

Two states have denied it licenses to operate, a board staff member said.

Nova's doctoral students must already have a master's degree and an education job before enrolling in the doctoral program, Donald Winandy, the board's licensing and accreditation specialist, said.

Besides providing that no new students be enrolled, the board said Nova's license to operate in Connecticut is conditional on degrees being conferred only under its Florida charter, and on a progress report being made by Feb. 1. The license is good through June 30, 1979.

Speaker To Discuss Handicapped Children

Thomas Pavensky, director of day treatment service at Beech Park School in

Carter Says U.S., Soviets Nearer Pact

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United States supports independence for Namibia — the African name for South-West Africa.

All but two of the 149 member nations were represented at the President's speech. The exceptions were South Africa, which has boycotted all assembly sessions since 1974, and Albania.

The chamber was packed, with only standing room in the galleries. In the audience, in addition to Mrs. Carter and Vance, were U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and Zbigniew Brzezinski, the national security assistant to the President.

"I have heard it said that efforts to control nuclear proliferation are futile," Carter said, "that the genie is already out of the bottle. I do not believe this to be true."

Nations which now have the capacity to export nuclear fuels and technologies

Three Water Win Reduction

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financial and family problems.

In shortening the sentences, Sirica followed the action he has taken in all the other Watergate criminal cases since the first one, involving the Watergate burglars themselves, came before his bench five years ago.

Sirica had ordered a federal probation official to interview the three as part of his preparation for considering their sentence reduction requests.

The results, made public in a dramatic courtroom scene, produced the first public admission of wrongdoing any of the three has made in his own words.

In the recordings, there was none of the hang-tough defiance Mitchell and Ehrlichman displayed during their 14-week trial.

Ehrlichman sounded politely confident in the recording. Mitchell was quiet

sweeping of wrong

"I have personal regrets about what I have done. I want to apologize to the nation for the burden I have placed on it. I am greatly relieved to this trial."

He repeated "very real" and "sorry for my government" a very strong penitence.

He is still in the Long camp.

Ehrlichman confined Sanford, pressed got into had an obligation bidden my index

He told rational get be